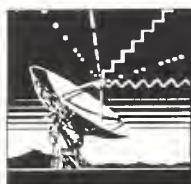


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Broadcasters Letter

United States Department of Agriculture • Office of Communications • Washington, DC 20250-1300

Letter No. 2734

October 6, 1995

USDA AUTHORIZES DELAY IN SETTLEMENT OF SOME CROP LOANS -- Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman announced (October 4) relief for producers in Minnesota, eastern South Dakota and northern Iowa facing difficulties in marketing their 1994-crop grain due to severe transportation problems caused by a backlog in barge traffic and a shortage of rail cars. Glickman said, "Affected producers are being granted a delay in settlement of up to 90 days on their maturing 1994-crop feed grain and soybean loans." These delays in settlement actions apply to loans with maturity dates of August 31, September 30 and October 31, 1995. They do not apply to producers who had grain in the 1994 Farmer-Owned Reserve or producers who had signed intentions to enter the 1994 reserve because those producers were offered four-month extension options earlier. **Contact: Bruce Merkle (202) 720-8206**

USDA TARGETS MARKETS UNDER THE EEP AND DEIP -- Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman announced (October 3) a three-month continuation of the interim allocations under the 1995/1996 Export Enhancement Program (EEP) and Dairy Export Incentive Program (DEIP) to help exporters of U.S. agricultural commodities compete on the world market. Glickman said, "This announcement ensures that U.S. agricultural commodities will remain competitively priced in the world market through the use of export subsidies when necessary." USDA's goal is to make the programs more market-oriented, but also to place U.S. farmers and exporters in the most competitive position possible at the end of the GATT phase-down period. During the interim period, procedures for EEP and DEIP will remain unchanged. Export sales will be facilitated through the payment of bonuses by the USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation. **Contact: Glenn Kaup (202) 720-3329.**

NRCS STREAMLINES HEADQUARTERS -- USDA's "new" Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) estimates savings of \$50 million annually by streamlining and reinventing itself. At the same time, the agency plans to maintain its strong field delivery system to provide conservation technical assistance to farmers, ranchers, units of government, and other landowners and users. Glickman said, "The NRCS has spent a year working toward its goal to reorganize and become more efficient. NRCS has initiated major changes that make it more responsive." In its reorganization, NRCS is reducing the staff level at its national headquarters by 50 percent, closing its four national technical centers, increasing the proportion of its staff at the field level, and working with USDA partner agencies to provide seamless and efficient customer service at one-stop service centers across the country. NRCS Chief Paul Johnson said, "Many of these changes have already taken place. I anticipate that this reorganization will be completed by January 1996." The agency will not have a reduction-in-force because of advance planning and using such tools as attrition, voluntary transfers, early retirement, and buyouts. **Contact: Diana Morse (202) 720-4772.**

FOOD SAFETY FORUM WILL CONVENE NOVEMBER 1 -- Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman announced (September 29) he will convene a Food Safety Forum in Washington, D.C. on November 1. Glickman said, "This forum is part of USDA's continuing effort to improve food safety and carefully review all aspects of the meat and poultry inspection system." Purpose of the November forum will be to focus on meat and poultry inspection reform issues beyond the specific issues addressed in USDA's food safety regulatory proposal. Forum topics will include possible legislative changes and how to ensure sufficient and effective application of public and private resources to improve food safety. Glickman emphasized that although the Department's goal was to publish a final rule by December 31, USDA was also committed to ensuring that the necessary time is taken to complete the rule correctly based on the comments received which includes discussions on USDA's regulatory proposal for science-based improvements in the meat and poultry industry. **Jacque Knight (202) 720-9113.**

FOOD STAMP PARTICIPATION DROPS -- More than a quarter of a million people moved off food stamps in July, taking participation to its lowest point since August 1992. Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman said, "Falling participation has resulted in a cumulative savings of \$573 million since last August." July's figure of 26.04 million participants represents a decrease of more than 272,000 since June, and 1.3 million between July 1994 and June 1995. He said it marks a full year in which participation figures were lower than they were in the same month a year earlier. The all-time high participation in the program was just under 28 million in March 1994. **Contact: Murray Rapp (703) 305-2039.**

USDA ANNOUNCES 1890 NATIONAL SCHOLARS PROGRAM -- Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman announced (September 29) USDA's 1890 national scholars program for the 1996 school year. The program is aimed at students studying agriculture or related subjects at the 17 historically black 1890 land-grant universities, with the goal of placing successful graduates into career positions at USDA. Glickman said, "This undergraduate program provides educational opportunities for some of the nation's best and brightest young people." USDA provides students in the program with full tuition, fees, books, use of a personal computer, software, employment, and employee benefits for each of the four years they are pursuing a bachelor's degree. The institutions provide the scholarship recipients with room and board for each year. The program is in its fourth year. To date, 107 students have been selected as USDA/1890 national scholars. USDA's goal is to provide 34 undergraduate scholarships each year. **Contact: Martha Cashion (202) 720-3310.**

ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCES GRANT FOR 4-H AFTER SCHOOL PROGRAM -- Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman announced (September 29) that four cities across the nation will share a \$3.5 million grant to expand a highly successful 4-H program for inner-city and urban children. USDA administers the nationwide 4-H program and facilitates the collaboration between federal, state, and local governments and private organizations. The grant monies, administered through local housing authorities, will be shared by the four cities to expand 4-H After School Programs in Los Angeles and bring the program's curriculum to Oakland, Calif., Kansas City, Mo., and Philadelphia, Pa. **Contact: Len Carey (202) 720-1358.**

FROM OUR RADIO SERVICE

AGRICULTURE USA # 2001 -- It's not only farm chemicals that are getting into our water supply. In this edition, Gary Crawford talks with experts about these problems and what is being done to clean up our water supply. **(Weekly cassette -- five minute documentary).**

CONSUMER TIME # 1480 -- A really "big" bird. From New Orleans Jazz to Community Garden projects. People are eating less fruit. Personalized diets from your genetic makeup? Chemical-free fabrics. **(Weekly cassette -- consumer features).**

AGRITAPE # 1993 -- Russian grain traders confirm poor Russian harvest. Chinese import forecasts abound. Analysts look at foreign customers/competitors. Livestock outlook. USDA creating one-stop service centers. **(Weekly cassette -- news features).**

UPCOMING ON USDA RADIO NEWSLINE -- Thursday, October 12, oil crops outlook; rice outlook; wheat outlook; hog outlook; world agriculture production; world grain trade; world oilseed trade. Tuesday, October 17, weekly weather and crop outlook. Thursday, October 19, agriculture outlook. **These are USDA reports we know about in advance. Our newslines carry many stories every day which are not listed in this lineup.**

USDA RADIO NEWSLINES (202) 488-8358 or 8359.

COMREX ENCODED (202) 720-2545

Material changed at 5:00 p.m., ET, each working day and 10:30 a.m. on crop report days.

FROM OUR TELEVISION SERVICE

FEATURES -- Lynn Wyvill reports on Urban Resources Partnership program which includes USDA and other federal agencies working with communities to solve environmental problems. This story looks at a project in Seattle, Washington that involves USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS). Patrick O'Leary reports on the changing role of USDA that has expanded beyond farm issues to include forests, environment, food safety and rural issues.

ACTUALITIES -- USDA Chief Economist Keith Collins talks about the farm bill debate which involves more issues than agriculture. USDA meteorologist Bob Stefanski comments on crops and weather including effects of Hurricane Opal on southeast crops. Stefanski talks about the freeze impact in the Corn Belt and gives a weather outlook for next 90 days.

UPCOMING -- Patrick O'Leary reports on a conservation practice in California that reduces soil erosion. Lynn Wyvill reports on the study of snowflakes to predict water supplies by USDA researchers.

SATELLITE COORDINATES FOR TV NEWSFEEDS: Thursdays at 3:45-4:00 p.m. ET on Telstar 303, Transponder 5H(horizontal), Channel 10, Downlink Frequency 3900 MHz, Audio, 6.2/6.8.

Comments and suggestions are welcome regarding USDA broadcast services. Call Larry Quinn, (202)720-6072, or write to: Room 1618-S, USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250-1300.

OFF MIKE

PUMPKINS...are maturing early, and corn is drying down in **Grace Kirchener's** (WCFL-AM /WJMQ-FM, Clintonville, WI) neighborhood. Grace says her radio stations are working on a major hunting and fishing expo which the public can attend by presenting a free ticket from local merchants and by bringing a contribution for their local Food Pantry. Grace entered broadcasting 27 years ago after leaving a dentist's office job at invitation of a patient who happened to be a radio station manager. She's handled news and farm news at WCFL /WJMQ for past 10 years.

COMBINES ARE MOVING...in Indiana harvesting both soybeans and corn. Farmers are giving first attention to soybeans so they can then plant winter wheat, according to **Darrin Johnston** (AgriAmerica Network, Indianapolis, IN). Early frost did little damage in Indiana because corn was mostly mature. He says yields are reduced somewhat by weather effects in planting and developmental phases, but overall yields should be on par with the five-year average. Darrin reports that global positioning equipment drew a lot of attention at the recent Farm Progress Show just outside Terre Haute, IN.

EARLY COLD...may have cost Nebraska farmers an estimated \$400 million in crop losses, but damage may not be as severe as first thought, reports **Mike LePorte** (KRVN, Lexington, NE). Some farmers lost 30 percent of soybeans and grain sorghum crops, but only about 10 percent of corn because it was closer to maturity. Water is another big concern in Nebraska. Meetings are underway throughout the state to discuss water quantity concerns and the interrelationships between surface water and ground water pumped for irrigation.

RADIO MEDIA AWARD...was presented recently to **Chuck Early** (WNIX, Greenville, MS) by the Mississippi Chapter of Women Involved in Farm Economics (WIFE). Besides covering Mississippi agriculture, Chuck has covered football turf, too, for 28 years as play-by-play announcer of Friday night Mississippi Delta High School football games.

Larry A. Quinn
LARRY A. QUINN, Director

Video, Teleconference and Radio Center



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